

The National Republican.

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Announcements.
 NATIONAL.—Mr. John McCullough.
 FOREIGN.—The Harbors.
 COMMERCE.—Harry Montague.
 DIME MUSEUM.—Matinee and evening performance.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1884.

The two McDonalds, Joseph E. and Mike, want the convention to go to Chicago. The first named is a gentleman.

Mrs. MARILLA RICKER, who was yesterday appointed an examiner in chancery and United States commissioner, is said to be the first woman ever appointed to such a position.

It is noted as a singular fact that Col. Bill Morrison, the Illinois candidate for president, wants the democratic national convention held in St. Louis. What is the matter with Col. Bill?

The house committee on commerce have finished a discussion, which has lasted for several weeks, upon the Reagan interstate commerce bill. It is stated by members of the committee that a bill introduced by Mr. Stewart, which embraces the good features of the Reagan bill, and omits some of its impractical provisions, will probably be reported favorably to the house.

In the debate on the military academy appropriation bill in the house yesterday the amiable and excellent gentlemen who are engaged in training the chosen youths of the country in mathematics and military tactics at West Point were called "nob" by a humorous member. It is customary for school boys who fail in their examinations to call their teachers naughty names, but this pastime is rarely indulged in by grave statesmen.

It is announced that the British government has presented the ship *Alert* to the United States unconditionally, for use in the Greely relief expedition. The opportunity for emulating the courtesy of this nation in the return of the *Resolute* to Great Britain having presented itself, it has been quickly taken advantage of by England in a way that will be cordially and gratefully appreciated here. Such acts of international generosity are so rare that they cannot fail to be productive of admiration and good feeling. Mother England has done a graceful thing in a royal way that will be fittingly recognized and remembered by the people of the United States. It is sufficient to inspire the wish that it may fall to the good ship *Alert* to rescue Lieut. Greely and his comrades, and bring them back safely to the shores of their country.

The text of Bismarck's communication in returning the *Laaker* resolution being now known, every one is at liberty to form his own conclusions as to the real spirit of his extraordinary course. It is courteous enough in language, but very clearly indicates that he does not consider the American house of representatives has any business to ask him to convey its opinions on German politics to the German parliament. In fact, he undignifiedly intimates that our distinguished house of representatives knows nothing about German politics that would justify it in passing an opinion. The language of the communication is such as to relieve the act of any appearance of international insult to this country. The conclusion the people will be likely to come to is that it is a lesson congress would do well to lay to heart as to the value of attending strictly to its own business. Our legislators have more than they appear able to do in keeping our own affairs in order, and can safely leave the authorities abroad to look after their own.

The fact that several notoriously disreputable persons attached themselves to the Chicago delegation that came on to Washington to persuade the democratic central committee to send the national convention to the board city by the lake should not militate against that place. Chicago is the only western city with hotel accommodations sufficient to accommodate a national convention crowd. St. Louis and Cincinnati have been tried and found woefully lacking in this very important particular. The limestone foundation upon which St. Louis rests is burning hot in June, July, and August. Cincinnati is a bake oven in summer. Delegates will have to sleep on the streets if the convention goes to Louisville or Indianapolis. Chicago is cool, even in the dog days, and its hotels are large enough and numerous enough to take care of any crowd, almost. Clearly, Chicago is the only western city for national conventions of either party. THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN charges nothing for this piece of friendly advice.

About this time last year the lower Mississippi valley was visited by a cyclone which overturned everything in its path. One town in Mississippi was almost swept out of existence and others suffered less severely. Probably fifty lives were lost and a vast amount of property was destroyed. There were also destructive storms in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and some weeks later portions of Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin experienced like visitations. The series of cyclones which passed over the south Tuesday were even more violent than those of last year and reached a wider extent of country. Rain, hail, lightning, and wind combined to produce alarming effects in many places, while such objects as happened to be in the path of the whirling cyclone, whether houses, or men, or animals, were swept aside. The storm crossed Alabama and Georgia on Tuesday afternoon, and, taking the route of Sherman's

march, passed through South Carolina into North Carolina on Tuesday night, leaving many wrecks in its wake. In the last-mentioned state the greatest damage was done. The little town of Rockingham was overturned, twenty-three persons were killed outright, and many more were wounded. It will be some days before all the casualties are known. The telegraph wires in the region visited by the storm were blown down and communication has not yet been fully restored. All human effort is powerless in the presence of these terrific exhibitions of the disturbed forces of the elements, and of late years they are becoming alarmingly frequent. The weather bureau can definitely locate the "area of low pressure," and tell us the direction in which it is likely to move, but even with this information it is pretty hard to keep out of the way of a whirling cyclone.

Forests and Floods.
 It used to be maintained that great floods were in a certain sense periodic. They occurred at long intervals, which were approximately of equal duration. The causes which produce floods are constant in their operation, and under ordinary conditions the results will be substantially the same in a given series of years. In these latter times, however, we have changed the conditions to such an extent that outraged nature no longer waits for the periodic culmination of her accumulated forces, but expends them with prodigal profusion at times and seasons when such phenomena are the least expected. Floods occur every year, sometimes in the early winter and sometimes in the late spring, and are always attended with more or less destruction of property, and occasionally with loss of life.

Prof. N. H. Egleston, of this city, in a recent paper discusses this subject from a scientific standpoint, and finds no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the disastrous floods of the past three years have been caused by the destruction of the forests on the banks of the rivers and on the mountains in which they have their sources. His theory, although not new, is strongly stated and is fully borne out by recent experience and observation. Every person of middle age has noticed that the streams with which he was familiar in boyhood have greatly shrunk in volume of late years, and that some of the smaller ones entirely fail during the summer months. For a few weeks in the spring a flood of water rushes down the channel and overflows the banks, but after the freshets have passed the water constantly recedes from the scarred and wasted shore. Deep wells, which were formerly regarded as "never failing," frequently go dry in the summer, and the "old oaken bucket" hangs idly from the windlass until the spring floods restore it to its useful and poetic office. This change in the habits of streams and springs Prof. Egleston attributes entirely to the wasting of the forests.

Where the trees have been growing for centuries the fall and decay of the leaves have formed a porous bed several feet thick, which absorbs and holds the water like a sponge. Whether the trees grow on the mountain side, in the valleys, or on the banks of the rivers, the ground on which each one stands becomes a sort of reservoir, which takes in the rainfall and holds it until the water percolates through the spongy mass and finds its way to the little fissures which lead to the subterranean fountains and springs. This process is slow, regular, and constant, and when rivers and creeks are fed only from this source, there are no floods; nor is there such a diminution of volume in the dry season as causes a water famine. The woodland, however, with its unsparring ax, has denuded many of the mountains and hills of their natural covering, there is no spongy mass to absorb and distribute the rain fall, the water dashes upon the bare, hard earth, and flows off as from a roof to the nearest drain, and a flood in all the neighboring streams soon ensues.

It must not be supposed, however, that floods are to be attributed entirely to the bare hills. The sudden melting of a great mass of snow often causes a rush of water far beyond the capacity of the forests to absorb, and sweeping floods often occur from this cause in the great forest regions. The obstruction of rivers by accumulated masses of ice is also a frequent cause of overflow and disaster. Against these overflows of nature's laws it is impossible to provide, because they are caused by conditions which are beyond the control of man. It is maintained, however, as a general proposition, that forests retain and distribute the rainfall in a way that prevents floods and droughts. As a rule floods are less frequent in a thickly wooded country, and the streams do not dwindle away in summer.

In the eastern and middle states the ax man has probably done his worst, unless perchance he is permitted to slash down the Adirondack forests. The timber bearing mountains of eastern Pennsylvania were robbed of their trees years ago by the rapacious charcoal burners, but the anthracite era has not since then, and iron is now made without the consumption of wood. A new growth of trees now covers the mountains, and unless some new demand is made upon them they will ere long perform their accustomed office in the economy of nature. In the lumber regions, however, the reckless destruction of timber is still going on; and, worse than all, the bark peeler is following in the wake of the lumberman and is felling the trees which the woodman spared, stripping them of their bark and leaving their bare trunks to rot on the spot where they fall. A stranger passing over the Philadelphia and Erie railroad, from Williamsport westward, cannot resist a feeling of melancholy apprehension as he contemplates the prodigal and wanton waste of timber caused by the lumbermen and bark peelers in northern Pennsylvania. There will come a time when these gigantic trees would be of immense value if they had been left standing.

Legislation can do nothing in this matter except to preserve the forests on the public domain and to encourage the planting of trees everywhere. The people should be educated up to a true appreciation of the office which trees perform in the economy of na-

ture. A little judicious instruction on this point in the public schools might do a great deal of good.

A National Holiday.

A few of the great of earth have left a fame so enduring that every hundred years some special notice is taken of the day that gave them to mankind, but the recognition which these benefactors of their race receive once a century is accorded to Washington every year. The birthday of the queen of England is celebrated throughout the British empire, but this annual tribute of affection and loyalty attaches to the regal office, and when the queen dies, it will be instantly transferred to the person who succeeds to the crown. The nativity of certain of the Christian fathers, who have been canonized by the church of Rome, is regularly celebrated by that church, but this is a religious service which only reaches a small portion even of the Christian community. It is the proud distinction of Washington that eighty-five years after his death fifty millions of people bless the day of his birth.

This fact alone is sufficient to fix his place on the very summit of fame. No greater tribute can be paid to mortal man. If the record of all that Washington did for his country and for mankind should be lost the traditional celebration of his birthday would perpetuate his name through all ages. He is the one conspicuous character in American history whose merit is universally admitted. Tested by the severe standards of the present age he still comes up to the full stature of a noble manhood. What he might have done if he had lived a century later is a matter of mere speculation. There has been tremendous development in all the arts of civilization since his time, and whether he would have been the first in war or the first in peace if he had belonged to the generation that saved the union from dismemberment is problematical; but certainly he possessed the equal balance, the calm fortitude, the high sense of duty which distinguish the great men of every age. It was his good fortune to live at a time when the peculiar virtues which he possessed were of more value to his country than the highest military genius or the greatest forensic talents. All comparisons between him and the great civil and military leaders of our own day are utterly fallacious, because the circumstances and conditions have entirely changed.

We have none too many national holidays, and it is entirely proper that this one should be celebrated in every town and hamlet in the land. To the masses of the American people a holiday is in itself an agreeable respite from exacting toil. When to the physical rest is added the cultivation of a truly patriotic spirit the day becomes a blessing.

It may be doubted whether the quarrel between Gen. Boynton and Gen. Keifer is a matter of sufficient public consequence to justify the investigation now being made by a committee of the house of representatives. As everybody expected from the first, the dispute has settled down into a question of veracity between the two belligerents, and the inquiry of the committee will determine nothing. Gen. Boynton is the correspondent of a widely circulated newspaper, and if its columns do not afford him sufficient space to vindicate himself and punish his antagonist, he can write a book, as he did about the time he and Gen. Sherman were engaged in settling certain disputed facts of history. Gen. Keifer is a member of congress, and has the right to rise to a question of privilege whenever his integrity as a legislator is assailed. If he is not content with this mode of dealing with the charges made by a newspaper correspondent, he can go into the courts for redress, and, as a final resort, he can carry the case before his constituents, and ask them to pass upon his conduct. A joint discussion between Gen. Keifer and Gen. Boynton would greatly enliven the coming campaign in the eighth Ohio district.

MR. MORGAN'S proposition to put state bonds on a level with national bonds, as a security for the redemption of national bank circulation, is not one that would meet with public favor. The people of this country have as much faith in a national bank note as in a greenback, simply because the security for payment in each case is the same. There is nothing in the history of state bonds calculated to inspire confidence in their value as a security, but there is a vast deal to justify extreme distrust. Repudiation of state obligations stains the record of some of the northern states, and almost without exception is a part of the history of the southern states. A Massachusetts bond would, no doubt, be a safe security, but how about a Tennessee bond? Railway bonds would be as safe security as state bonds.

MR. BELFORD intimated in the house yesterday that a bad grammarian may be a good soldier. We do not know what historical examples Mr. Belford might have brought forward in support of his assertion, but he might have cited the bad spelling of Napoleon Bonaparte and Andrew Jackson to prove a knowledge of orthography is not a necessary accomplishment in a great soldier.

Hedging.

It is amusing to hear some papers tell of the fierce struggle which is said to be going on between Chicago, St. Louis, and Cincinnati for the honor of getting the national democratic convention. The truth is that Chicago has made no open bid for the convention; she is simply, so to speak, in the hands of her friends. Her advantages are known to all, and she will not demand herself to the extent of going into a rough-and-tumble war with a lot of second-class towns, whose existence seems to depend upon securing the patronage of a national convention to tide them over the dull summer season. Chicago is perfectly well aware that if the national democratic convention would be a political, moral, and social success it must be held in Chicago. She can therefore afford to be dignified and reserved in this matter. St. Louis and Cincinnati are too small picking for Chicago. New York and Philadelphia are the only game Chicago hunts, and she is always prepared for a wrestle with them.

Mr. Dana and the President.

"I must go," said Mr. Dana yesterday, rising and shaking the president's hand, "sir," said the president, "I wish you would remain. I am not even inclined to accept the proposition that you ought to go." "Thanks, but I must," said Mr. Dana. "Very well," said the president, regretfully. "William, turn the gentleman out. Nothing else of extreme moment occurred."

AMUSEMENTS.

THE NATIONAL.

The sale of season tickets for Abbey's Italian opera, which ended Tuesday, netted over \$5,000, and the sale of single seats reached the same figure. The latter sale is still progressing. "Faust" is the opening opera, with Mrs. Nilsson as Marguerite. The season will last four days.

Monday next Henry Irving will open a week's engagement. Sale of tickets commences this morning. The celebrated minstrel organization of Barrow and Wilson will appear at the National on Friday and Saturday evenings of next week, with a matinee Saturday. They are too well known here to require comment.

FORD'S.

A matinee this afternoon at 2 o'clock will enable the patrons of Ford's opera house to see the Harbors. The usual performance to-night and to-morrow night, and matinee to-morrow afternoon.

On Monday Charles Wyndham and his company from the Criterion theater, London, will open a week's engagement with "A Great Divorce Case" and "Love's Device." The merits of this company are universally recognized. Reserved seats may be procured at the box office.

UNWARRANTED BY THE FACTS.

An investigation into the charge that an English spy was allowed to tamper with the mails.

The postmaster general yesterday reported to the house of representatives the result of Inspector Major Sharpe, appointed to investigate the charges against L. A. Newcome, of New York. In his letter of transmittal the postmaster general says that he directed Maj. Sharpe, chief of inspectors, to obtain all information showing or tending to show that Mr. Newcome had permitted a British spy named O'Brien, knowing him to be an agent of the British government, to have unlimited opportunity to tamper with and open the correspondence of American merchants, and lay his plans to entrap men, some of whom—American citizens—were subsequently tried in Liverpool and sentenced to imprisonment for life. Whether the person calling himself O'Brien, says the postmaster general, was or was not a British spy, there was no grounds for charging that he had access to the mails of the United States, or was permitted to tamper with them in any way. Maj. Sharpe says in his report that O'Brien was introduced to Mr. Newcome in the latter part of May or first of June, 1883, as an English detective. There was no evidence that he was an English spy, or that he was the person who was introduced as such, and his own statements to parties subsequently. Being allowed to frequent Newcome's office, gave him no opportunity to pry into any person's mail, and there was no evidence that he was ever in a position where he could obtain possession of the mail belonging to the postoffice, or that he made any proposals to the postoffice officials to furnish him with any person's letters. The propriety of Mr. Newcome's being in such intimate social relations as he was with a man about whom he knew so little was doubtful, but the statement that O'Brien obtained access to letters passing through the New York postoffice, by the aid or connivance of Inspector Sharpe, or by any other means, was unwarranted by the facts.

Make Them Settle.

The house committee on Pacific railroads yesterday agreed to favorably report a bill prepared by Representative Crisp, which is a substitute for bills introduced on the same subject, to compel Pacific railroads to pay the cost of surveying and selecting lands that have been granted to them by act of congress. In default of payment within sixty days after the passage of the proposed act the attorney general is directed to bring suit against the defaulting roads. Under the question of forfeiture of lands granted to the Northern Pacific railroad is determined by congress the provisions of the bill acted upon cannot apply to that railroad company. About 35,000,000 acres of land have been earned in good faith by Pacific railroads, one-seventh of which have been patented. The government has surveyed over 29,000,000 acres, and for this survey the railroads owe about \$500,000. The passage of the act will compel the Pacific companies to pay taxes to the states in which the lands lie. The states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado are most interested. The Union Pacific has earned about 13,000,000 acres of its grant, 2,000,000 acres of which have been selected, leaving 11,000,000 acres for which the cost of survey will have to be paid. The action of the committee will be reported to the house Monday.

Lotteries and the Mails.

The senate committee on postoffice and post roads had up for consideration yesterday the bill introduced by Senator Sawyer to prohibit the mailing of newspapers and other publications containing lottery advertisements, and to amend the postal laws so as to provide that the postmaster general be authorized to prohibit the delivery of registered letters or the payment of postal money orders to persons engaged in conducting any lottery, gift enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money, or of any real or personal property by lot, or by the sale of tickets, or in conducting any other scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false or fraudulent representations or promises. No action was taken on either of the bills, but it is expected that both will be reported favorably.

The Greely Relief.

It is learned that the advance ship of the Greely relief expedition will be the *Theia*, and that she will be under the personal command of Commander Schley, the leader of the expedition. It is thought that Lieut. Greely, senior, or Seabury, as announced, will be her executive officer. Lieut. Emory Taunt will be a participant in the expedition. The division, it is said, was not entirely upon party lines, although both the West Virginia senators being opposed to confirmation, the weight of the opposition came from their party friends. The incumbent, J. N. Winier, is exerting all his influence against confirmation.

An Important Patent Case.

The secretary of the interior yesterday heard argument by counsel in the case of Edison vs. Sawyer and Mann, involving a patent for incandescent electric lamps. The decision of the commissioner of patents awarded priority of invention to Sawyer and Mann, and Edison appealed from that decision. Mr. Roscoe Conkling appeared at the hearing for Edison and Mr. Broadnax, of New York, for Sawyer and Mann.

Board Call.

The secretary of the treasury yesterday afternoon issued a call for the redemption of \$10,000,000 3 per cent. bonds. The call will mature May 1 next.

He Didn't Believe It.

Wait Street News.
 A private banker in a town in Wisconsin received a call a few days ago from a stranger, who deposited \$10, and then turned around and asked the banker for a loan of \$50.
 "What sir, I can't lend you any money," replied the banker.
 "I think you can. Please take time for reflection."
 "I don't want to reflect upon the subject, sir."
 "Would a run on this bank damage you \$50 worth?"
 "There will be no run here."
 "Suppose there was?"
 "It is too absurd to suppose. Good day, sir!"
 The stranger walked outdoors, and the banker closed for the day. He entered a grocery and stated that he was a depositor, and asked if he was sound. He entered a dry goods store and inquired if the hard times might not pinch the banker. He entered a drug store and offered his certificate for \$5. He met a lawyer and inquired if a receiver had been appointed to look out for the interests of the depositors. Next morning he was at the door of the bank, questioning the cashier, and behind him were twenty-five or thirty citizens. Before noon the bank was closed and its doors closed, and an ex-private banker was skipping out to avoid being lynched.

proportion. Mr. Waring, of the national board, said that at the next meeting he would prefer charges against Dr. Hamilton for incapacity in conducting the marine hospital service.

ENGLAND'S GENEROUS ACT.

The *Alert* Presented to the United States by Great Britain.

The following communication explains the action taken by the United States in securing the British steamer *Alert* for use in the Greely relief expedition:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, Feb. 21, 1884.—To the President: In the search for vessels suitable for the expedition now preparing to relieve Lieut. Greely and his party attention was early directed to the *Alert*, which is the property of the British government and was the advance ship of the expedition under Sir George Nares. It was desired to secure this vessel, as she is peculiarly fitted for the intended service, and as the inspecting officers recommended that Mr. Howell should be of use to the expedition, she would be presented to the service. Information of the wish of this government having previously and informally reached the British government, a private intimation was conveyed to the United States minister to the effect that the British government had not forgotten the very considerable conduct of this government on the occasion of the recovery of the *Resolute*, and that should any suggestion be made that the vessel would be of use to the expedition, she would be presented. The *Resolute*, a vessel as the President remembers, formerly belonging to her majesty's navy, having been abandoned in the Arctic region, was discovered and brought to the United States by American seamen, and thereupon was purchased by this government for her salvors, repaired, and returned to Great Britain. On her arrival in England the vessel was received by the Queen in person, and the officers of the United States navy who took the ship thither were treated with every official and personal courtesy.

The government of her majesty has now given the *Alert* to the United States unconditionally, with her anchors, chains, and sails, and her equipment as can be utilized. Recognizing this graceful and opportune act of courtesy on the part of her majesty's government, the undersigned to-day instructed Mr. Lowell as follows by telegraph: "Her majesty's government having presented to the United States the British steamer *Alert* to aid in the relief of Lieut. Greely and his party, you will inform the secretary of state for foreign affairs that the receipt of this vessel by the United States is evidence of sympathy with the object of the expedition, and of the respect of the President, as it will that of the people of the United States."

"The President sends his cordial thanks for the opportune gift of this vessel, which he accepts in the name of the United States, and wishes to be used in the humane enterprise for which it is so peculiarly adapted. Respectfully, FREDERICK T. FREELINGHUYSEN."

Hewitt's Call on Minister West.

The house committee on foreign affairs yesterday took up the resolution offered by Mr. Brannan, of Pennsylvania, which provides that the house shall instruct that committee to make inquiry as to whether any foreign minister accredited to the government of the United States has endeavored to nullify the effects of a unanimous resolution of this house by representations affecting the honor and integrity of its members.

Mr. Hewitt, of New York, subsequently (in compliance with invitation) came before the committee. A very animated colloquy took place between him and Mr. Belmont, of New York, in the course of which the latter expressed his opinion that the resolution of the house was unwarranted. Mr. Hewitt's call on the British minister shortly after the passage of the O'Donnell resolution was an error, and he is not responsible for a few minutes, and said he was confident that evidence could be obtained to justify the implied assertion of his resolution if the committee would obtain authority from the house to send for persons and papers.

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The Riverdale Disaster.

Messrs. Fairchild and Matthews, United States local inspectors of steam vessels, at New York, who were appointed to investigate the conduct of Engineer Tauman, of the steamer *Riverdale*, at the time of the explosion of the boiler of that steamer, have reported that they find that Tauman failed in the performance of his duty, as required by sections 4141 and 4143, revised statutes, for which negligence they have suspended his license indefinitely. They recommend the enactment of a statute, or the adoption of a rule by the board of supervising inspectors, requiring all steamboat boilers hereafter constructed to be clear spaces between the bottom of the shell and the lower part of the flues sufficiently large to permit the engineer or others to make a thorough internal examination of that portion of the boilers of steam vessels found defective in that of the *Riverdale*.

He Saw the Lynching.

The senate in executive session yesterday took up the nomination of George F. Evans to be postmaster at Martinsburg, W. Va., and after an hour's discussion reached a vote the result of which was as follows: Yeas, 19; nays, 19. The senate adjourned without action. It charged that Evans was present at the lynching of a negro who had outraged and then murdered a white woman. Mr. Evans admitted his presence, but declared that he was not a participant in the lynching. The division, it is said, was not entirely upon party lines, although both the West Virginia senators being opposed to confirmation, the weight of the opposition came from their party friends. The incumbent, J. N. Winier, is exerting all his influence against confirmation.

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CURRENT GOSSIP.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

When Heaven grants to earth a son Who for his father's honor won To tell his fame and how he won We set apart his natal day. The day recalls us for a time From our own lives and selfish thought, To thoughts of others more sublime, Whose lives with nobler deeds were fraught.

In old times, when there appeared A hero, who by noble deeds Himself to glory has endeared, As one whose heart for other bleeds, Death was to him a sparkling stream, Which he must step but lightly o'er To take his place and sit supreme Among the gods for evermore.

This day does not recall to earth A demi-god from heavenly spheres, But a true man of mainly worth, Whose faults, perchance, his greatest screen A man of human hopes and fears, Whose wisdom and of strength: A man whose power our hearts have given To-day throughout its breadth and length.

No sickly sentimental praise Should strive to add to his renown, Nor men who bleed and voices raise To worship or beseech the dead. But honor him as one whose life Deserves our ardent love: One who from scenes of earthly strife Has gone to his reward above.

His deeds on earth in truth were great: Their power the world will ever feel. It was his glory to create And to confirm a nation's weal. "Tis not the whole of life to live," May his example never cease To wield a power our hearts have given To his old liberty and peace.

—T. F. Dennis.

A BARK THAT WAS BORN IN THE COURT HOUSE.

LAWYERSHIP. In London, Sunday, has been christened Ohio Fleet Washington.

The Washington Park club, of Chicago, has sold the polling and book-making privileges for its inaugural meeting at \$4,000 per day.

HENRY M. ALDEN, the editor of *Harper's Monthly*, and George William Curtis, the editor of the *Weekly*, are paid \$10,000 a year each.

TEN thousand copies of the first edition of the *Queen's Diary* were sold the first day. The second edition will be ready by the end of the month.

A PAC RIMBLE of the diamond necklace of Lady Dudley, of England, has been made by a New York jeweler for a lady of that city. It is worth over \$20,000.

THE vast stream of emigration from Germany is being directed in some degree by a society, which aims at the instruction of its members, and to forward them to their homes. The society has 400 lodges, and for its 50,000 active members.

MR. LONG was called the hand shaking, cattle show governor of Massachusetts; Mr. Robinson, though not two months in the chair, already is mentioned as the governor who trips the light fantastic toe. He is distinguishing himself by attending all the social balls.

In a letter to the Nashville friend Mr. Duncan B. in 1860, in New York, states that the nine in Mexico formerly belonging to ex-Treasurer Marsh T. Polk, has been sold to New York parties for a round \$1,000,000. The new company will take possession of the property in April.

A NEW YORK jeweler has on exhibition a brilliant ruby, which weighs ten and a half carats. It is a spread stone of a peculiar oblong shape. It originally belonged to a rajah, from whom it was bought by a European potentate for a princely sum. The rajah, who was a prince of a princely house, was to sell his jewels to pay her bills.

IT appears from a work soon to be published by Louis Fagan, the author of a well-known life of Panizzi, that the British museum possesses the only authentic manuscript of Raphael, the manuscript being a sonnet written on a sheet containing sketches for some of the figures in the "Dispute of the Sacrament," which was painted in the Vatican about the year 1508.

AYOUB KHAN, who sought to become the successor of Sher Ali, took up his abode at Meshed when he was driven out of Afghanistan. Then he went to Teheran, where the shah received him kindly and granted him a pension of \$1,750 a month. But now, for no apparent reason, he has given up the pension and is going with his household of 250 persons to Bokhara. It is expected that he has some political intrigue in view.

A RECENT letter from Florida says that no doubts can be entertained as to the rapidity and permanence of new settlements in Florida. They are springing up as if by magic all over the length and breadth of the land, and prices are obtained for town lots which would appear almost fabulous in many of our cities. The land is so fertile, and perhaps not very erroneously, that the population of the state has nearly doubled since the census of 1860.

THERE is nothing at present known that can replace the carbon in electric lights. The carbon for the voltaic arc system are mostly made at Cleveland, and cost \$50 a thousand. For the incandescent light carbonized bamboo, lignum vitae, and osage are used. The use of the incandescent carbon is petroleum, which is ground fine, then mixed and pressed under heavy hydraulic pressure to give it adhesiveness. The process is partly a secret one.

A PARTY of Bostonians who visited London last summer took occasion to go over to Chelsea upon a picnic to the house of the late Thomas Carlyle. On the door of the house which stands near the Victoria railway was a large placard bearing the pathetic inscription: "No quotations about Mr. Carlyle answered here. Please do not ring." The torture which the innocent family must have undergone before resorting to so extreme a measure, it is heartrending to think of.

A PRIVATE note from Eugene Field, formerly of the Chicago *Inter Ocean*, but now literary lecturer for Warner's Safe Kidney Cure, announces that he will reach Washington from Bladensburg some time next week. Mr. Field is traveling over the country in a handsome open-top wagon, stopping at different places, discoursing eloquently to the people of each place upon the merits of his eastern tour by Mr. John Ballantyne, of the Chicago church choir, who is one of the most vocalists on earth.

THE public will recall the killing of W. H. Haverstick, the New York broker, by George W. Conkling, who came from the west to do him because his sister, Mrs. Emma Uhler, had left her husband to live with Haverstick. "Popular sentiment" set so strongly with Conkling that he was acquitted of murder and posed as an avenging hero. Now comes the sequel. The woman went west with her brother, but soon tired of home life, came east, lived a low life in New York, and died from poison administered by herself. The miserable story conveys many lessons, and one of them is that mature women are equally responsible with men for their careers.

APROPOS of Gambetta's facility in speaking on the inspiration of the moment, the following anecdote is told: "While journeying one day with a young deputy from Paris to Versailles, he said: 'Do not speak to me, I have a long and important speech